

OUR ROLE IN THE SYSTEM

The District of Columbia criminal justice system is made up of numerous agencies. PSA performs two critical tasks that contribute to the effective administration of justice and enhancement of community safety.

PSA gathers information about newly arrested defendants and makes recommendations to the Courts about what, if any, release conditions can be set that will reasonably assure that each defendant will appear in court when required and remain arrest-free while awaiting trial.

Every arrested person is presumed innocent and, in DC, is presumed to be entitled to release before trial.

A judge or magistrate judge uses PSA's recommendations, along with representations from the prosecutor and defense attorney, to make the release decision.

For released defendants, pretrial provides supervision in accordance with the judge's orders and the defendant's assessed risk level. Supervision may include regular contact with a PSO, drug testing, curfew, electronic monitoring/GPS, substance use and mental health assessment and treatment.

Non-compliance with release conditions is discouraged through the use of graduated sanctions, which may include increased reporting and/or drug testing and court notification. Compliance is encouraged through the use of incentives, including reduced supervision obligations.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & LOCATIONS

500 INDIANA AVENUE, NW - DCSC

Diagnostic Unit

Room C-225 / (202) 585-7030

Release Services

Room C-301 / (202) 585-7077

DTCU Adult Drug Testing

Room C-220 / (202) 585-7060

DTCU Juvenile Drug Testing

Room C-210 / (202) 585-7050

601 INDIANA AVENUE, NW

General Supervision Units

2nd, 3rd and 10th Floors / (202) 585-7955

Social Services and Assessment Center

9th Floor / (202) 442-1660

Traffic Safety and Supervision Unit

9th Floor / (202) 442-1920

633 Indiana Avenue, NW

Office of the Director/Headquarters

11th Floor / (202) 220-5500

Specialized Supervision Unit

9th Floor / (202) 220-5556

DTCU Satellite Drug Testing

9th Floor / (202) 220-5546

Drug Court

10th Floor / 202-220-5505

High Intensity Supervision Program

10th Floor / (202) 220-5530

333 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW – USDC

District Court Unit

Room 2507 / (202) 442-1000

www.PretrialServices.gov

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PSA

PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY
for the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

*Risk-based supervision
and treatment options to
support compliance with
release conditions*



Promoting pretrial justice
and enhancing community safety

PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (PSA)

ABOUT PSA

The Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) is an independent entity within the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). PSA was established as a federal agency in 2000. From 1967 through 2000, PSA operated as an agency of the DC Government. In 2017, PSA celebrated 50 years of service to the Nation's Capital.

PSA operates a variety of programs and provides a wide array of services to the DC Superior Court (DCSC), the US District Court for the District of Columbia (USDC) and the defendants it supervises.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

The **Diagnostic Unit** interviews defendants arrested and charged with limited DC Code offenses and US Code offenses in the DCSC.

Each defendant's criminal history is also reviewed. This review and the interview results are used to assess each defendant's likelihood of appearing in court when required and remaining arrest-free while awaiting trial. This is called a "risk assessment."

We then make recommendations to the court about what, if any, release conditions can be ordered that will reasonably assure a defendant's appearance in court and public safety.

SUPERVISION SERVICES

Immediately after defendants are released, they report to the **Release Services Unit** to review conditions of release. This helps support the transition to supervision and compliance with the Court's expectations.

PSA supervises certain defendants awaiting trial or sentencing in DCSC and USDC. This includes monitoring defendants' compliance with release conditions and reporting this information to the court.

Common supervision requirements include reporting to a Pretrial Services Officer (PSO), drug testing, curfew or electronic monitoring.

PSA's supervision units include: **General Supervision (GSU), High Intensity Supervision Program (HISP), US District Court (USDC), and Traffic Safety and Supervision (TSSU).**

TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Defendants with substance use and/or mental health treatment needs may be supervised by the Drug Court Unit or Specialized Supervision Unit.

The **Drug Court Unit** is a substance use treatment and supervision program for defendants charged with misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. Participants receive appropriate treatment and, upon completion of the program may have

misdemeanor charges dismissed or received favorable sentencing or reduction of felony charges.

The **Specialized Supervision Unit (SSU)** provides services to defendants with mental health or a combination of substance use and mental health treatment needs to assist them in meeting pretrial obligations.

The **Social Services and Assessment Center (SSAC)** assesses defendants' treatment needs and assists PSOs in making appropriate referrals for treatment services.

DRUG TESTING SERVICES

PSA operates a comprehensive testing program for pretrial defendants, as well as individuals supervised by CSOSA and certain juveniles and respondents with cases in DCSC Family Court.

The **Drug Testing and Compliance Unit (DTCU)** collects urine and oral fluid samples from PSA defendants and Family Court juveniles and respondents.

The **Office of Forensic Toxicology Services (OFTS)** performs urine and oral fluid screening for up to nine drugs of abuse, including synthetic compounds, and uses gas chromatograph/mass spectrometry (GC-MS) to confirm test results. Toxicologists conduct levels analyses to distinguish new use from residual to provide timely and accurate results for pretrial decision making.